

# ADMIRAL KOLCHAK VAINLY DENIED WHOLESALE MURDERS ON THE LAST DAY OF TRIAL THAT RESULTED IN HIS DEATH

## RUSSIAN DESPOT DIED LIKE A MAN AFTER HIS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

**Cross-Examined as to the Slaughter of 500 Workmen, Flogging of Women and Execution of Innocent Members of Constituent Assembly, Ill-Fated Dictator Protested Complete Ignorance of Such Outrages—Defended Burning of Villages as Defensive Measure, Claiming They Were Fortified, Rebellious Towns.**

By HERMAN BERNSTEIN.

On the ninth and last day of his trial, Admiral Kolchak was cross-examined by several members of the revolutionary tribunal regarding outrages committed during his regime, such as the execution of innocent members of the constituent assembly, the wholesale murder of workmen without trial, and floggings of women by order of his officials. Kolchak's answers on these points were evasive. In most instances he pleaded ignorance.

The man chosen as dictator, or supreme ruler, regarded by allied representatives as Russia's savior, and encouraged by them, practically admitted that he was but a marionette in the hands of others whose interests were not the interests of the Russian people.

One of the judges, M. Alexeyev, said:

"I have questioned you concerning your relations with Regnault, the French high commissioner. You said these relations were purely those of one officer toward another. Yet in a letter by Madame Timereva, dated September 17, repeating the impressions she had gathered during your voyage from Japan to Vladivostok, she said that you entered an alliance with Regnault."

Admiral Kolchak said:

"From Japan I traveled with Regnault. We did not discuss politics. It was an ordinary acquaintance."

"In your estimate of the attitude of the army toward the coup d'etat the volunteer forces played an important role. What was their opinion of the situation?" asked these judges.

"I do not know, but their representative in Chelyabinsk told me that in general the army was hostile to the committee of the constituent assembly and the directorate. Even Fortunatov's troops were against them. Fortunatov was in command of the Regiment of the Constituent Assembly."

help us sincerely, and who did all he could to relieve our situation by giving us supplies. As far as I remember, Harris called on me on the second day and said to me: 'I think the entire event will be interpreted in a wrong light in the United States. But, as I have watched all this atmosphere, I can only welcome the fact that you have assumed the power, on condition, of course, that you look upon your power as temporary, and that your fundamental task shall be to lead the people to the moment when they take over the government in their own hands, when they can elect a government according to their own will.'

"I said to him: 'This is indeed my fundamental task. I shall not abuse my powers, and shall not remain in office one day longer than necessary.'

"Then Harris said to me: 'I sympathize with you and believe that if you go along this road and fulfill the tasks confronting you, we shall also work together in the future.'

### Assembly Members Slain

Popov asked:

"Do you know that Chernov and his comrades were saved by the Czechs by armed force from the Russian army who were taking them away to have them shot?"

Kolchak replied:

"It seems to me this was not so. They were arrested by General Gaidar. But the Czech National Council demanded that they be sent to Chelyabinsk, and General Gaidar obeyed this order. As to the attack of the Czechs on the Russian army, I do not know about it. When I received a list of the twenty arrested members of the Constituent Assembly it appeared that, with the exception of Devyatov, none of those who signed the telegram was on the list."

Popov asked:

"What was the fate of these men and who was responsible for what happened to them? Do you know that most of them were shot?"

Kolchak replied:

"About eight or nine were shot during the uprising on December 20. The chief of staff, Lebedev, informed me that an uprising was planned by the railroad men, that it would start with a strike, and that the whole affair would be arranged under Soviet slogans. On the eve of the expected uprising Lebedev reported to me that the Bolshevik staff, consisting of twenty men, were arrested."

"He said that this would probably end the uprising. He told me that an investigation was in progress regarding the men arrested. I know they were shot immediately after arrest. On the day of the uprising Lebedev reported to me that all the prisoners had fled and that the prison was empty. I asked him: 'Have the members of the Constituent Assembly also escaped?' Lebedev said: 'Yes, they escaped.' Then he informed me that the court-martial was to start that evening."

Kolchak replied:

"As far as I remember, the representative of the United States, Harris, and the representative of France, Regnault, were in Omsk at the time. The British representative was not there yet. Only Colonel Ward was present. General Knox came later. Japan was represented by a purely military mission. The Czechs had their military representatives—Koshekh and Richter. In general the attitude of all those who called on me was very favorable."

"Harris, the American representative, treated me in a spirit of great friendship. His attitude was extremely favorable to me. He was one of the few representatives of the United States who wanted to

conjunction affected the center and east of Europe and Russia in the Russo-Japanese war which lasted from 1904 to 1905.

The unsettled condition that has been going on in India since that time shows the powerful influence of these planets coming to the conjunction in the different sign of the Zodiac and their relative bearing on the countries ruled by the signs.

The planets Jupiter and Saturn are at present passing through the sign of the balance, Libra. The zodiacal sign Libra rules Japan, China and Austria. This sign is opposed to the sign Aries which rules Great Britain and as opposites attract, this may be the cause of the pact between Japan and England.

It will be interesting, at least, to watch the result that may come of this planetary influence.

Jupiter passing through the ruling sign of a century brings prosperity, trade and reforms that are beneficial to the Government.

Effects of Mars.

Saturn transiting through the ruling sign causes hindrances of various kinds by affecting the health of the nations and by its vibrations causing political changes of national importance. As Libra, the sign of the scales of Justice, houses these two planets, neither Saturn nor Jupiter will completely hold sway but will be weighed in the scales and dealt with justly by the representatives of the combined national forces, indicating that we are not dealing with individual principles of nations, rulers or powers, but with their united activities.

The planet Mars, representative of energy, strength and courage, also in the sign Libra. The countries ruled by the sign through which Mars passes are generally the center of activity and argumentation.

This planet is significantly com-

THE WASHINGTON TIMES presents herewith the fifth and concluding installment of the real, hitherto untold story of Admiral Kolchak; how he was made Dictator of Siberia by the Allies in the hope of crushing the Soviet Government; his meteoric career, his capture by the Bolsheviks and his tragic death. It is virtually Admiral Kolchak's own story. The narrative is compiled from stenographic notes made at the six-day trial of the ill-fated dictator, in which he told frankly the full details of his perilous adventure.

The notes were obtained by Karl H. Von Wiegand, staff correspondent of the Washington Times at Berlin, from Czechoslovakian officers of Siberia the official transcript of the testimony. These notes were thereafter translated and edited by Herman Bernstein, the celebrated international journalist. Mr. Bernstein was in Siberia at the time Kolchak was proclaimed dictator, and supplies important data to amplify Kolchak's own narrative.

### 43 Workmen Executed

"I received a note from Vologodsky saying that members of the Constituent Assembly who had no connection with the uprising were being court-martialed. I immediately wrote a letter saying that they must not be court-martialed or tried without my knowledge. His information came to me as a surprise, for I had been informed they had had all fled. I afterward learned that a number of them had voluntarily returned to prison. I sent my letter to the chief of the garrison, Brzezhnevsky, head of the court-martial. That was between 10 and 11 o'clock in the evening."

"At about 10 o'clock next morning Vologodsky, Telberg and Starinkovitch came to my house. By that time I had received from Brzezhnevsky a list of the arrested members of the Constituent Assembly. He wrote that my order was carried out and submitted a list of the members now in prison, who would not be tried. I was surprised that the list contained less than half the names. When I received Vologodsky's, he said:

"I know that Rubtsov went to prison in order to carry out the instructions of the court, but he did not take part in any of the executions."

Then Popov declared:

"There had been no verdict as yet. He simply came with a demand for these three persons—Popov, Devyatov and Kirilenko. He led Devyatov and Kirilenko away. They were taken, together with forty-three workmen, to the outskirts of the city, and were shot there. Bartashevsky took the others. As far as Bartashevsky is concerned, when he learned that Devyatov and Kirilenko had been already taken away, he selected eight men at random and took them along. These men were also shot. The extraordinary investigating commission established these facts and ordered Bartashevsky's arrest. He was imprisoned for two months, then liberated as a reliable man. Were you aware of these facts, and what did you, as supreme ruler, do in the matter?"

Kolchak replied:

"My impression was that Bar-

tashevsky had fled, since nothing was heard about him."

Popov asked:

"Did you know that six officers participated in these shootings? The investigating commission has their names. Did you know that not one of them was arrested? Do you know that members of the Constituent Assembly were murdered, and that others not members of the Constituent Assembly and who had not the slightest connection with the uprising were also murdered?"

Kolchak said:

"The lists of those who were shot were submitted to me. I believe the names of Mayevsky and Fomin were mentioned in those lists."

"How were the executions carried out in Kullmsino?" asked Popov.

"The shooting was in accordance with the verdict of the military court which was established there immediately upon the occupation of Kullmsino."

"Was any record kept of the trials?"

"The court-martial was conducted in the usual way."

"You should have known that there was no court at all in Kullmsino, that three officers were sitting there, that groups of ten to fifteen workmen were brought over to them, that the officers gave their orders immediately and the workmen were taken away and shot."

"I had no such information."

"I received information that the court had sentenced eighteen or twenty men to be shot," said Kolchak.

Deinike asked:

"Did you know that aside from the executions ordered by the court-martial, mass floggings were practiced, that women in particular were flogged?"

Kolchak—"Nobody has ever reported to me about such floggings. There was a definite order forbidding corporal punishment. Consequently I could not know that flogging was practiced. When I learned of floggings I ordered the guilty to be placed on trial, and they were removed from office."

Kolchak—"I did not know it, and could not know, as I did not be-

lieve anything like this could be done at my headquarters."

Popov—"Do you know that in Kullmsino about 500 people were shot in groups of fifty or sixty at a time?"

Kolchak—"I was told that the general losses—"

Popov—"There was no battle there at all. The workmen were captured and shot right there on the spot. Do you know that one of those shot in connection with the trial of the eleven Communists testified that he was a Communist only because his arms were broken during tortures?"

Kolchak—"I hear this for the first time."

Popov—"Do you know that Rozanov gave instructions to burn down villages and hamlets at the slightest attempt at uprising and that villages in which firearms were found were also to be destroyed by fire?"

Kolchak—"I do not think such instructions were given by Rozanov. There are telegrams that I sent to Artemyev and Rozanov in this connection, giving general instructions as to how to act in similar cases of uprisings. I pointed out that the people in such instances should be fined, that their property should be confiscated, and that their land should be given to those who suppressed the uprising. Thus there were no general instructions with regard to burning villages, but I consider that in the course of battles it is sometimes necessary to resort to such measures. Perhaps you have specific facts that Rozanov gave such instructions?"

Popov—"I myself have seen people who were tortured and mutilated there, and whose wounds had not yet healed even in March."

Kolchak—"If such things were done, I could have learned of them only indirectly."

Popov—"Do you know that all these things were committed at the headquarters of the Supreme Ruler Kolchak?"

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## "STILL AT WAR WITH GERMANY," HIS BASIS EXCUSING SLAYINGS

**Admiral Vainly Tried to Offer Evidence That He Was Not Responsible for the Wave of Bloodshed That Marked His Short But Terrible Rule Over the People of Siberia, But When at Last He Saw That the Tribunal Would Judge Him Guilty, He Played the Game—Stood Erect and Facing Firing Squad**

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